

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01 /033 W

-----085112 041550Z /44

O R 041445Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 773

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ASUNCION 3184

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), PA

SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT - QUESTIONS/ANSWERS FOR PRESS CONFERENCE

1. POST HAS INFORMALLY CONVASED PRINCIPAL REPORTERS REPRESENTING LOCAL PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA TO DETERMINE SUBJECTS OR THEMES MOST LIKLY TO ARISE IN AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 17.

2. QUESTION WILL FALL INTO FOLLOWING GENERAL AREAS:

- 1) PURPOSE OF AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S TRIP
- 2) PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTERNATIONAL POLCY - BROAD ASPECTS
- 3) US POLICY TOWARD LA
- 4) HUMAN RIGHTS
- 5) US-CUBAN RELATIONS
- 6) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN LA
- 7) MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE WESTERN HEMISHPER
- 8) US NUCLEAR POLICY IN LA
- 9) US PLANS FOR CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES WITH LA
- 10) SUBJECTS DICUSSED WITH STROESSNER

3. WITHIN THESE GENERAL AREAS, QUESTIONS WILL DEAL MORE SPECI-
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FICALLY WITH THE FOLLOWING. FOR THOSE COVERING STRICTLY BILATERAL QUESTIONS, SUGGESTED REPLIES ARE PROVIDED.

- 1) Q. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION - GOALS, POLICY. IS POLICY COHERENT?
- B) 1. HOW DOES LA FIT WITHIN THIS US VIEW OF THE WORLD?
WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S LA POLICY IS DIFFERENT FROM OR AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THAT OF THE PREVIOUS

ADMINISTRATION?

C) Q. COMMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND APPARENT INCONSISTENCIES IN APPLICATION OF HR POLICY AROUND THE WORLD. WHY ARE LA FRIENDS BEING SINGLED OUT FOR PUNITIVE SANCTIONS?

D) Q. WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATIONS'S APPROACH TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT IN LA? (WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS AND WHY HAS NOTHING REPLACED IT?)

E) QM WHERE DOES TODAMN STAND ON CUBA? ARE NOT IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HR THERE A CONTRADICTION IN POLICY?

F) 1. WITH RESPECT TO PARAGUAY, WHAT ARE FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID? IN THIS REGARD, WHY DOES THE US FAVOR BOLIVIA OVER PARAGUAY?

ANSWER; TOTAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC AID TO PARAGUAY HAS AMOUNTED TO SOME \$140 MILLION IN GRANTS AND LOANS OVER A THIRTY YEAR PERIOD. FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HAS EMPHASIZED HELP TO THE SMALL FARMER (PEQUENO AGRICULTOR) - THROUGH LOANS IN SUPPORT OF AARMERS' COOPERATIVES, BROADER FORMS OF CREDIT, ETC. IT IS THEREFORE APPROPRIATE TO TALK NOT OF AN INCREASE OF AID BUT RATHER OF A SHIFT (AS A MATTER OF GLOBAL POLICY - ALSO AFFECTING PARAGUAY) AWAY FROM CAPITAL INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE AND GRANT AID, TOWARD LOANS TO STIMULATE PROGRESS IN THE SMALL FARM SECTOR. THESE LOANS ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING AT A LEVEL OF ABOUT \$5 MILLION A YEAR, AND DEPEND LARGELY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING VIABLE PROGRAMS HERE, IN WHICH EFFORT WE AND THE GOP ARE WORKING CLOSEL6 I ANTICIPATE NO DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF SUCH LOANS.

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IT SHOULD NTO BE FOGOTTEN THAT THE US PARTICIPATES IN MULTILATERAL AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCING INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE WORLD BANK AND THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BAN, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UN AND OAS. OUR SHARE OF CONTRIBUTIONS VARIES BETWEEN 30-60 PERCENT, SO THAT IN A REAL SENSE THE US HAS CONTRIBUTED IN LARGE SCALE TO PARAGUAY'S DEVELOPMENT, THROUGH THESE ORGANIZATIONS

AS TO MILITARY AID, GRANT ASSISTANCE ON A WORLD WIDE BASIS HAS BEEN TERMINATED, AND INsofar AS PARAGUAY IS CONCERNED, THE USG IS LIMITED TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN KINDS OF TRAINING AND OF A MODEST AMOUNT OF LOAN CREDITS TO FACILITATE PRUCHASES OF US EQUIPMENT. THE TREND IS DOWNWARD, AS WE BELIEVE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ABLE TO DO SO SHOULD ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR DEFENSE NEEDS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE US HAS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT MOST OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE WE HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN ABLE TO PROVIE PARAGUAY HAS BEEN USED BY THIS COUNTRY FOR NON-MILITARY PURPOSES: FOR THE INTERNAL AIRLINE, FOR ROAD BUILDING, FOR RIVER COMMUNICATIONS.

IT IS INCORRECT TO SAY THE US FAVORS ONE COUNTRY OVER ANOTHER. OUR AID IN THE PAST HAS BEEN TAILORED TO THE NEED OF EACH COUNTRY. HAPPILY, PARAGUAY HAS SHOWN ITSELF CAPABLE OF ASSUMING A MAJOR PROPORTION OF ITS NEEDS AND WE APPLAUD THIS SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

G) Q. AT ONE POINT, THE US NAMED BRAZIL AS THE HEMISPHERE'S LEADER AND SPEARHEAD OF AMERICAN POLICY. IN VIEW OF RECENT FRICTIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND ITAMARATY, WHO WILL NOW TAKE BRAZIL'S PLACE? (VENEZUELA?)

H) Q. TO WHAT EXTENT WILL FUTURE ECONOMIC AND/OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR PARAGUAY BE TIED TO HR?

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ANSWER: OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS, HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT THEIR TAX MONIES BE SPENT ABROAD IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE IDEALS ON WHICH OUR COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED. THIS ACCOUNTS FOR THE FACT THAT CURRENT LEGISLATION REQUIRES THAT THE US WITHHOLD ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID FROM NATIONS WHICH SHOW A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS HUMAN VIOLATIONS. THIS HUMAN RIGHTS FACTOR MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WITH RESPECT TO ALL COUNTRIES SEEKING US ASSISTANCE, WITHOUT DISTINTION. WE DO NOT FEEL THIS IS INTER-FERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, SINCE ALL AID RECIPIENTS THROUGH THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UN OR OAS HAVE ALREADY UNDERTAKEN TREATY OBLIGATIONS TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS.

I) 1. CRITICS ACCUSE THE US OF VIOLATING MINORITY GROUP HR WITHIN ITS OWN BORDER. TO WHAT DEGREE IS THIS TRUE?

J) 1. ONE HAS THE IMPRESSION HERE THAT US ATTENTION IS FOCUSED MORE ON EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST THAN ON THIS AREA. YOUR

COMMENTS, PLEASE.

K) Q. WHAT IS US DENUCLEARIZATION POLICY TOWARD LA?

L) Q. DID TODMAN DISCUSS ANY OF THE FOREGOING QUESTIONS WITH
PRESIDENT STROESSNER?

ANSWER: YES, WE HAD A FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, AND I
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BELIEVE THIS HAS HELPED EACH COUNTRY UNDERSTAND THE OTHERS POSITION.
AS I MENTIONED ON MY ARRIVAL, THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT WAS TO GET TO
KNOW PARAGUAY, AND MY EXCHANGES WITH PARAGUAYAN LEADERS HAS BEEN
VERY HELPFUL TO ME.

4. WE ANTICIPATE THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARGENTINE AND
BRAZILIAN PRESS MAY ALSO COVER PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE.
THERE MAY BE AN EFFORT TO SOUND OUT AMBASSADOR TODMAN ONHIS
VIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARANA RIVERS' HYDROELECTRIC POTENTIAL
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 70b5fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1714125
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TODMAN VISIT - QUESTIONS/ANSWERS FOR PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: OVIP, PA, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/70b5fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009